



CCSBT-EC/0710/08

10. Report from 1st Joint Tuna RFMO Meeting

Purpose

To brief the Extended Commission on the 1st Joint Tuna RFMO Meeting in Kobe 2007 and associated meetings.

Discussion

The Government of Japan, with technical assistance provided by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized and hosted the first Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs from January 22nd to 26th 2007 in Kobe, Japan. The report is (CCSBT-EC/0710/Info03)

The meeting included participants from 54 Members and cooperating non-Members of 5 tuna RFMOs (IATTC: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, ICCAT: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, IOTC: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, WCPFC: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and CCSBT: Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna), as well as representatives of the Secretariats of the 5 tuna RFMOs, one non-Member, 7 inter-governmental organizations and 7 non-governmental organizations. The Executive Secretary represented the Secretariat at the meeting.

The 1st Joint Tuna RFMO meeting confirmed challenges commonly faced by those RFMOs including establishment of effective and comprehensive stock rebuilding programs, collection of reliable data for stock assessment, restriction of fishing capacity/fishing effort, implementation of effective MCS (monitoring, control and surveillance) measures, striking a balance between the needs of developed and developing states, and effective cooperation among the tuna RFMOs.

The 1st Joint Tuna RFMO meeting considered a course of Actions for RFMOs. The Draft Course of Actions included

- (I) key areas and challenges
- (II) technical work to cooperate across RFMOs to address the challenges, and
- (III) follow-up actions.

The participants, who included representatives of all CCSBT Member countries, confirmed that their willingness to implement the Course of Actions through their participation in Tuna RFMOs.

The United States of America hosted and Japan Chaired the Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group meeting on Trade and Catch Documentation Schemes was chaired by Masanori Miyahara on 22 to 23 July 2007 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

A copy of the report was circulated to Members 1 August 2007 and is an information paper (CCSBT-EC/0710/Info01)

Of particular importance were the three items recommended to be referred to RFMOs for their consideration

1. Japan presented a paper on harmonized documentation for Big-eye Tuna in all Oceans
2. El Salvador Mexico, Guatemala and Panama presented a paper on tracking purse seine catches from vessel to market
3. Canada, EC and USA presented a paper on a variety of matters including trade tracking and ideas for best practice.

These three papers are appendices Number 8, 10 and 9 respectively in CCSBT-EC/0710/Info01 .

In addition there were useful discussions on current practice, discussion on principles, and future work. Under the future work item for information Australia tabled its CCSBT draft CDS paper.

The USA will host an ad-hoc Tuna RFMO Chairs' meeting (probably January or February 2008) mentioned in Section II and III respectively of the Course of Actions. The European Community offered to host the second Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs in 2009.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission should consider following actions

1. Congratulate Japan on the initiative to hold the Joint Tuna RFMOs meeting
2. Endorse in principle the Course of Actions for Tuna RFMOs from the Kobe meeting
3. Note that the Commission and its subsidiary bodies will be guided by the recommendations of the first and subsequent meetings of the Joint Tuna RFMOs and its subsidiary meetings
4. Consider the three papers referred from the Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group meeting on Trade and Catch Documentation Schemes
 - a. Japan presented a paper on harmonized documentation for Big-eye Tuna in all Oceans(CCSBT-EC/0710/Info01 Appendix 8)
 - b. El Salvador Mexico, Guatemala and Panama presented a paper on tracking purse seine catches from vessel to market (CCSBT-EC/0710/Info01 Appendix 10)
 - c. Canada, EC and USA presented a paper on a variety of matters including trade tracking and ideas for best practice. (CCSBT-EC/0710/Info01 .Appendix 9)
5. Reiterate the Commissions primacy in managing the SBT stock.

For consideration

Prepared by the Secretariat